

Appendix A

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March 19, 2010

Mr. Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

**Re: Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) – Broadband Technology
Opportunities Program (BTOP) Grant Application**

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

Verizon applauds the efforts of Governor Deval Patrick and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) to bring affordable, ubiquitous and robust broadband to unserved and underserved communities in western Massachusetts. Not only do consumers benefit from competition and consumer choice, but our innovation economy and competitiveness in Massachusetts is increasingly dependent on vibrant broadband networks.

Verizon is proud of its own broadband infrastructure investments throughout Massachusetts. In 2008, Verizon expanded its broadband network, bringing High Speed Internet Service ("HSI") using DSL technology to significant portions of 24 unserved and underserved communities in western Massachusetts. In addition, we have boosted HSI speeds in other communities throughout the state, our wireless network in Massachusetts has fully deployed 3G broadband technology, and we've brought fiber-to-the-home to more than 100 Massachusetts communities.

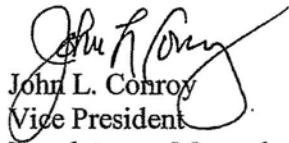
We also recognize that the rural nature, topography and low population density of Western Massachusetts make it more difficult to deploy ubiquitous broadband technology. It's here that limited and strategically targeted public investment toward full broadband access may help create public benefits, such as new business and job creation, better access to education and healthcare, and public safety.

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In this spirit, Verizon and the MBI already are conducting joint planning regarding access to Verizon's poles for the purpose of attaching necessary infrastructure for broadband deployment in Western Massachusetts. To help ensure that the attachment licensing and make-ready process for MBI is efficient and streamlined, we have designated members of our staff to work with the MBI on the process and monitoring the corresponding make-ready work.

Verizon looks forward to a productive collaboration with the MBI. Thank you for your consideration of the MBI's proposal for Western Massachusetts

Sincerely,


John L. Conroy
Vice President
Regulatory – Massachusetts

Cc: Judy DuMont, MBI